Codex etc. decided to quantify the limit of pesticide residues in the Indian Standards for Packaged Drinking Water and Natural Mineral Water. The revised norms now form amendment to the aforesaid Indian Standards. The revised standards have been forwarded to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for amendment in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has already issued a notification inviting comments from public to amend the standards of Packaged Drinking Water and Natural Mineral Water under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act Rules, 1955.

BIS specifications for bottled water

1592. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bureau of Indian Standards has observed that the packaged water being sold under its earlier specifications was safe and fit for consumption;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether it is proposed to leave the matter at this stage without any further investigation and action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A seminar was convened by Bureau of Indian Standards on 13th February, 2003 to determine whether the Packaged Drinking Water and Natural Mineral Water manufactured as per existing Indian Standards was fit for human consumption. The seminar was attended by eminent Scientists representing Governments bodies, representative of World Health Organization, Consumers, representatives of Industry and other Stakeholders. The seminar affirmed that the Packaged Drinking Water and Natural Mineral Water now being produced according to the BIS Standards is fit for human consumption.

(c) No, Sir. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has already evolved amendments in Indian Standards for Packaged Drinking Water and Natural Mineral Water in order to align them with the world's best norms for pesticide residues. They will be implemented after they are incorporated in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 which is administered by

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Ministry of Health and Farmily Welfare has already issued a notification inviting comments from public to amend the standards of Packaged Drinking Water and Natural Mineral Water under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act Rules, 1955.

Sale of subsidised food commodities in open market in Sikkim

1593. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the CBI has investigated the case of sale of subsidized food commodities in open market provided to Sikkim by the FCI;

(b) whether it is a fact that six State Governments employees of the Food and Civil Supplies Department are also involved;

(c) if so, what action has been taken to prosecute them in the court of law by the CBI; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the involved officials of the FCI only are facing trial in a court in Sikkim and the involved State Government employees in the same racket are moving freely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. CBI has investigated the case of sale of subsidized food commodities in open market provided to Sikkim by the FCI and registered a case (R.C. No. 23/98) in this matter. In the investigation, complicity of five FCI employees and six employees of Food and Civil Supply Department of State Govt. of Sikkim has been, *prima-facie*, established. All the eleven accused were arrested for offences under P.C. Act 1988.

Food Policy

1594. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Government's Food Policy gets a reality check from